

Constructive Credit for DISCS Courses

(Updated January 2017)

Introduction

Some members of the security cooperation (SC) workforce have extensive SC experience that may qualify these individuals for “constructive credit” for DISCS entry level courses. The procedures below explain constructive credit and how such credit is awarded.

Background

DISCS introductory courses are intended to provide a broad SC educational base for new SC workforce professionals addressing three primary objectives:

1. Provide a broad understanding of SC programs and implementation of these programs throughout the US government (beyond job-specific understanding) to permit more effective management of SC programs.
2. Demonstrate a base knowledge in SC program details important to most SC programs. The demonstration of this learning is typically an end-of-course test.
3. Ensure “International Program Security Course” (IPSRC) compliance with DoD Directive 5230.20, “Visits, Assignments, and Exchanges of Foreign Nationals,” which states that “All DoD personnel responsible for negotiating, overseeing, managing, executing or otherwise participating in international activities shall successfully complete one or more of the courses required by Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum dated October 22, 1999.”

The most practical method of achieving these objectives is completion of a DISCS course. In unusual cases, however, individuals may have achieved these objectives by a combination of experiences as outlined below which demonstrate that an individual has met the requirements for DISCS credit without attending the formal course.

DISCS Course Constructive Credit Requirements

Orientation Course (SCM-OC)

Individuals believing that they have the requisite knowledge as described in the course catalog for this course may enroll in the orientation course, skip the online learning modules, and immediately take the course examination to receive credit for the course.

Executive Course (SCM-E)

1. A minimum of three years successful experience as an O-6 (or senior O-5) or GS-15 (or senior GS-14) with personal oversight of SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding,

- international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training).
2. Completion of SCM-OC (ie. Enroll and just complete the learning checks).
 3. Completion of any IPSRC. Completion of the International Programs Security Requirements – On-Line (IPSR-OL) is normally the most expedient method.

Security Assistance Management - CONUS Course (SCM-C)

1. A minimum of three years successful experience with SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding, international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training management).
2. Completion of the examination for SCM-C (scheduled with DISCS). Passing score is 70%.
3. Completion of any IPSRC. Completion of the International Programs Security Requirements – On-Line (IPSR-OL) is normally the most expedient method.

Security Cooperation Management - Overseas (SCM-O)

1. A minimum of three years successful OCONUS-focused experience with SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (working in a Security Cooperation Office, Geographical Combatant Command, and/or as a regional desk officer for a service with SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding, international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training management experience).
2. Completion of the examination for SCM-O (scheduled with DISCS). Passing score is 70%.
3. Completion of any IPSRC. Completion of the International Programs Security Requirements – On-Line (IPSR-OL) is normally the most expedient method.

Requesting Constructive Credit

A SC workforce member will complete a memorandum (sample below) through their supervisor to the DISCS Registrar (DISCS, 2475 K Street, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7641; FAX 937-255-4319) either requesting scheduling of a comprehensive examination for constructive course credit or award of constructive credit for SCM-E (after passing the SCM-OC/SCM-OC and IPSRC online exams). Upon receipt of this memorandum, the DISCS Registrar will coordinate with the Directorate of Instruction for a recommendation (and examination if required) to the DISCS Commandant. If constructive credit is denied, the individual may appeal this decision to the DISCS Dean of Academic Affairs.

SAMPLE MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM TO DISCS COMMANDANT
THRU DISCS REGISTRAR
THRU (SUPERVISOR)

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTIVE CREDIT REQUEST FOR DISCS EXECUTIVE COURSE (SCM-E)

1. I request constructive credit for SCM-E based upon extensive successful SC experience relative to the course objectives.
2. I have (state number, minimum of three) years successful experience as an O-6 (or senior O-5) or GS-15 (or senior GS-14) with personal oversight of SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding, international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training). My supervisor's signature on the Through line of this memorandum verifies this experience. Specifically, (describe appropriate experience).
3. I have completed the International Programs Security Requirements Course - (list IPSR Course completed).
4. I have completed the SCM-OC course demonstrating a basic knowledge of SC programs.

Signature

Attachment

SF 182 – AUTHORIZATION, AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF TRAINING (only blocks A 1,2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16; B 2a)

Supervisor's Endorsement

SAMPLE MEMORANDUM SCM-O

MEMORANDUM TO DISCS COMMANDANT
THRU DISCS REGISTRAR
THRU (SUPERVISOR)

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTIVE CREDIT REQUEST FOR SECURITY COOPERATION MANAGEMENT – OVERSEAS
COURSE (SCM-O)

1. I request constructive credit for SCM-O based upon extensive successful SC experience relative to the course objectives.
2. I have (state number of years, minimum 3) OCONUS-focused experience with SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (working in a Security Cooperation Office, Geographical Combatant Command, and/or as a regional desk officer for a service with SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding, international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training management experience). My supervisor's signature on the Through line of this memorandum verifies this experience. Specifically, (describe appropriate OCONUS SC experience).
3. I have completed the International Programs Security Requirements Course - (list IPSR Course completed).
4. I request the DISCS contact me at (email address) to schedule an examination on SC program management details.

Signature

Attachment

SF 182 – AUTHORIZATION, AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF TRAINING (only blocks A 1,2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16; B 2a)

Supervisor's Endorsement

SAMPLE MEMORANDUM SCM-C

MEMORANDUM TO DISCS COMMANDANT
THRU DISCS REGISTRAR
THRU (SUPERVISOR)

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTIVE CREDIT REQUEST FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT – CONUS (SCM-C)
COURSE

1. I request constructive credit for SCM-C based upon extensive successful SC experience relative to the course objectives.
2. I have (state number, minimum 3) years successful experience with SC programs involving most aspects of the SC process (SC program planning, FMS or pseudo FMS case development, case funding, international logistics, acquisition for international programs, and/or international military training management). My supervisor's signature on the Through line of this memorandum verifies this experience. Specifically, (describe appropriate experience).
3. I have completed the International Programs Security Requirements Course - (list IPSR Course completed).
4. I request the DISCS contact me at (email address) to schedule an examination on SC program management details.

Signature

Attachment

SF 182 – AUTHORIZATION, AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF TRAINING (only blocks A 1,2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16; B 2a)

Supervisor's Endorsement